

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 8, line 10 to page 9, line 10, please amend these paragraphs as follows:

[[ro]] (ii) Substrate specificity

L-rhamnose and L-rhamnulose are used as a substrate. Other than these, L-lyxose and L-xylulose, L-mannose and L-fructose, D-ribose and D-ribulose, D-allose and D-psicose are used as a substrate.

[[ha]] (iii) Active pH and optimal pH

The active pH ranges from 7.0 to 10.0 and the optimal pH is 9.0.

[[ni]] (iv) pH stability

It is stable within the pH range of 6.0 to 11.0 in the case where it is kept at 4°C for 1 hour at various pH values.

[[ho]] (v) Active temperature and optimal temperature

The active temperature ranges from 40 to 65°C and the optimal temperature is 60°C.

[[he]] (vi) Temperature stability

It is stable at 40°C for 10 minutes and remains at 90% or more even at 50°C for 10 minutes.

[[to]] (vii) Effect of a chelating agent

Its activity is hardly inhibited even if it coexists with EDTA or EGTA, which is a chelating agent, during the measurement of its activity.

[(chi)] (viii) Effect of a metal ion

About 30% of the activity is inhibited by 1 mM cobalt ion.

[(ri)] (ix) Molecular weight by the SDS-PAGE method

It is about 43,000.

Page 15, line 7 to page 16, line 2, please amend these paragraphs as follows:

[(ro)] (ii) Active pH and optimal pH

The active pH ranges from 7.0 to 10.0 and the optimal pH is 9.0.

[(ha)] (iii) pH stability

It is stable within the pH range of 6.0 to 11.0 in the case where it is kept at 4°C for 1 hour at various pH values.

[(ni)] (iv) Active temperature and optimal temperature

The active temperature ranges from 40 to 65°C and the optimal temperature is 60°C.

[(ho)] (v) Temperature stability

It is stable at 40°C for 10 minutes and remains at 90% or more even at 50°C for 10 minutes.

[(he)] (vi) Effect of a chelating agent

Its activity is hardly inhibited even if it coexists with EDTA or EGTA, which is a chelating agent, during the measurement of its activity.

[[to]] (vii) Effect of a metal ion

About 30% of the activity is inhibited by 1 mM cobalt ion.

[[chi]] (viii) Molecular weight by the SDS-PAGE method

It is about 43,000.

Page 16, line 17 to page 17, line 12, please amend these paragraphs as follows:

[[ro]] (ii) Active pH and optimal pH

The active pH ranges from 7.0 to 10.0 and the optimal pH is 9.0.

[[ha]] (iii) pH stability

It is stable within the pH range of 6.0 to 11.0 in the case where it is kept at 4°C for 1 hour at various pH values.

[[ni]] (iv) Active temperature and optimal temperature

The active temperature ranges from 40 to 65°C and the optimal temperature is 60°C.

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[[he]] (vi) Effect of a chelating agent

Its activity is hardly inhibited even if it coexists with EDTA or EGTA, which is a chelating agent, during the measurement of its activity.

[[to]] (vii) Effect of a metal ion

About 30% of the activity is inhibited by 1 mM cobalt ion.

[(chi)] (viii) Molecular weight by the SDS-PAGE method

It is about 43,000.

Page 22, lines 10 to 18, please amend this paragraph as follows:

L-rhamnose isomerase according to the present invention is L-rhamnose isomerase derived from *Pseudomonas stutzerii* LL172, and has the amino acid sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence in which one or more amino acids in the amino acid sequence have been replaced with another amino acid, deleted, or one or more amino acids have been added. The gene (DNA) according to the present invention has the nucleotide sequence encoding the above-mentioned L-rhamnose isomerase.

Page 24, line 16 to page 25, line 11, please replace these paragraphs by the following paragraphs:

[(ha)] (ii) Active pH and optimal pH

The active pH ranges from 7.0 to 10.0 and the optimal pH is 9.0.

[(ni)] (iii) pH stability

It is stable within the pH range of 6.0 to 11.0 in the case where it is kept at 4°C for 1 hour at various pH values.

[(ho)] (iv) Active temperature and optimal temperature

The active temperature ranges from 40 to 65°C and the optimal temperature is 60°C.

[(he)] (v) Temperature stability

It is stable at 40°C for 10 minutes and remains at 90% or more even at 50°C for 10 minutes.

[(to)] (vi) Effect of a chelating agent

Its activity is hardly inhibited even if it coexists with EDTA or EGTA, which is a chelating agent, during the measurement of its activity.

[(chi)] (vii) Effect of a metal ion

About 30% of the activity is inhibited by 1 mM cobalt ion.

[(ri)] (viii) Molecular weight by the SDS-PAGE method

It is about 43,000.